

REMARKS

Claims 14-17, 19-21, 23-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being unpatentable over Oellerking in view of Christensen. The Examiner states that a limitation of the intended use of the material does not patentably distinguish the claimed fabric.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. The claims have now been written to recite a composite comprising the material formed according to the present invention and a second substrate to which the material is fixed by the auxiliary fixing means. Support for this can be found in the specification as filed at page 6 and in figures 3A and 3B, wherein the fixing portion including auxiliary fixing means is used to fix the material to a second substrate, such as a column, sheet, etc. There is nothing in either Oellerking or Christensen that would lead one skilled in the art to use weldable fabrics to produce such a composite.

Oellerking discloses a repair patch made of fabric coated with weldable plastics materials for repairing sheets. In this case, no auxiliary fixing means is needed to use the patch for repairs. Christensen discloses a method of joining weldable fabrics using a lap joint. There is no disclosure or suggestion of using this particular structure with a second substrate.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted

In re Appl. No. 09/033,909

that the claims are now in condition for allowance, and  
favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

BROWDY AND NEIMARK, P.L.L.C.  
Attorneys for Applicant(s)

By



Anne M. Kornbau

Registration No. 25,884

Telephone No.: (202) 628-5197  
Facsimile No.: (202) 737-3528

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14. (Amended) The material according to claim 2731 |  
wherein said welding portion extends across the entire width  
of the welding fabric.

15. (Amended) The material according to claim 2731 |  
wherein said welding portion extends across part of the width  
of the welding fabric.

16. (Amended) The material according to claim 2731 |  
wherein said welding portion comprises a warp coated with a  
thermoplastic material.

17. (Amended) The material according to claim 2731 |  
wherein said welding portion comprises a warp made of fibers  
coated with a thermoplastic material.

19. (Amended) The material according to claim 2731 |  
wherein said welding portion is at each end of said welding  
fabric.

20. (Amended) The material according to claim 2731 |  
wherein said welding portion is in the middle portion of said  
fabric.

21. (Amended) The material according to claim 2731 |  
comprising two fixing portions connected edge-to-edge with  
each other.

23. (Amended) The material according to claim 3033 |  
wherein said two welding portions are attached to the middle  
of said fixing portion.

24. (Amended) The material according to claim 3033 |  
wherein said two welding portions are branched from one edge  
of said fixing portion.

25. (Amended) The material according to claim 2733 |  
wherein the substrate is any substrate which can be subjected  
to hot pressing.

28. (Amended) The material according to claim 2731 |  
wherein said auxiliary fixing means comprises holes bored at a  
suitable interval in the fixing portion.

29. (Amended) The material according to claim 2731 |  
wherein said auxiliary fixing means comprises straps provided  
in the fixing portion.